



For Immediate Release

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REP. DOYLE INTRODUCES COMMON SENSE BILL TO PROTECT SCHOOLS

MADISON – State Representative Steve Doyle (D – Onalaska) introduced a bill today that closes a current loophole in the law that makes it difficult to charge a person who makes a threat to use a firearm to injure or kill people at a school.

“Right now in Wisconsin, if a person calls in a threat to set off a bomb at a school, a district attorney could charge them with a felony,” noted Doyle. “But if that person had threatened to ‘bring a gun to school and kill you all’ without making a specific threat to a named person, district attorneys often find themselves unable to charge the person with anything more than a misdemeanor.”

The bill, known as AB 111, was drafted at the request of a sheriff and district attorney and models Wisconsin’s gun threat laws on the successful bomb scare laws. Under the bill, a person could be charged with a Class I felony for knowingly making a false threat to use a firearm to harm or kill another person on school property.

“When I introduced this bill last session, I heard stories from school districts around the state who have faced similar situations,” said Doyle. “The bill also earned the support of the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators, the Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association, the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials, the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, the Wisconsin Association of School Personnel Administrators, and the Wisconsin Council for Administrators of Special Services.”

“This bill passed the Assembly on a strong bipartisan vote last session,” said Doyle. “This time we have even more bipartisan support and I am hopeful that we will get this bill through both houses.”

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